

challenge themselves in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Mr. Erickson is respected by all—his students, parents, and administrators alike. Through his hard work and dedication, Scott Erickson is making a tremendous impact in the lives of his students, and this earned him both the title of Teacher of the Year and the admiration of those around him. The Northwest Florida community is proud to call him one of our own.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mr. Scott Erickson for his great achievements and exemplary service. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing him all of the best.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VOLUNTEERS  
OF CLARION, IOWA

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and acknowledge the volunteers of Clarion, Iowa, for their hard work and becoming 2012 National Honorees of Make a Difference Day. This year, more than a thousand citizens of Clarion participated in Make a Difference Day activities, earning them the prestigious honor as one of the nation's 2012 Make a Difference Day winners.

Make a Difference Day is a celebration of the power of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA Weekend, this annual day of service mobilizes more than 3 million volunteers nationwide to create positive change in their communities.

This group of outstanding volunteers from this three-stoplight town of 2,800 has made a substantial impact in their community by completing hundreds of small acts of kindness that culminated in their well-deserved national recognition. From crocheting robes for seniors to cleaning ditches, from raking leaves to running errands for neighbors in need, this small town came together a thousand strong to make an unforgettable impact on Make a Difference Day.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Clarion and its citizens in the United States Congress and I trust my colleagues in the House will rise to join me in congratulating them on a job well done. Clarion has shown the nation once again that small towns can surely do big things.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
AMERICAN LIBERATORS OF  
WORLD WAR II AND THE 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-  
NATIONAL MARCH OF THE LIV-  
ING

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as Holocaust Remembrance Day approaches on April 19, 2012, I would like to commemorate the U.S. forces that liberated concentration camps and death camps throughout Europe during World

War II. I would also like to commend the International March of the Living, which is commemorating 25 years of taking thousands of students to Poland to visit the sites of mass murder by the Nazi regime.

Each year, those participating in the March of the Living solemnly walk the three kilometers between Auschwitz and Birkenau, two sites that represent the largest concentration camp complex during the war. This year marks the first time students will march not with only friends, families, and survivors, but also the liberators who freed so many from the grips of the Nazi regime. These liberators saw first-hand the atrocities committed by the Nazis, and because these atrocities remain achingly clear, it is important that, as the number of liberators dwindles, we ensure their first-hand accounts are never forgotten. These brave soldiers exhibited compassion, and brought hope, to the survivors they liberated. It is for these reasons that I salute the liberators of the concentration camps and death camps, as well as International March of the Living on its 25th Anniversary, and I call on my colleagues to do the same.

THE PASSING OF MARK AYERS,  
PRESIDENT OF THE AFL-CIO'S  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION  
TRADES DEPARTMENT

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my shock and sadness at the untimely passing of Mark Ayers, President of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department.

Mark led the BCTD with great skill and amazing grace. He was a champion for worker's rights and worked tirelessly to raise the standard of living and quality of life for all working people and their families.

Mark was an extraordinary leader who possessed an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of working families.

Mark leaves big shoes to fill and will be missed by all who knew and loved him. But his legacy will live on.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

BAYLOR 2012 WOMEN'S  
BASKETBALL TEAM

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Baylor women's basketball team for winning the 2012 NCAA national championship. I was born in Waco, Texas, home of Baylor University, and I am so proud of my hometown team.

The Baylor Lady Bears did more than win, they made history. The Lady Bears completed a 40-0 season on April 3rd, 2012, by defeating Notre Dame 80-61 in the championship game. They became the first team, men's or women's, to go undefeated and win 40 games in one season.

Baylor University women's basketball team also made television history. With 4.24 million viewers, their game ranks as the most viewed national championship final since 2004. Brittney Griner, the Associated Press Player of the Year and the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament, led the Lady Bears in their sound defeat of Notre Dame. I am pleased to hear that Brittney intends to stay in school and is on track to finish her undergraduate degree.

Baylor University, which also happens to be the alma mater of my own sister, has the most wins combined in football, men's basketball, and women's basketball of any Division I school this season. Baylor should be proud of their many accolades. They have worked so hard to succeed not only in sports, but academically as well. Baylor is a top ranked national university and is an academic gem for the State of Texas and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the Baylor University women's basketball team for their historic accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. REBECCA POE  
OF WEST VIRGINIA

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2012*

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of a constituent of mine Mrs. Rebecca Poe; specifically her twenty-six years of service as Executive Director of the Randolph County Senior Center along with her other accomplishments as Randolph County director for North Central Community Action, campaign chairman for United Way of Randolph County, President of the Elkins Rotary Club and her service on the board of Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center.

Rebecca, whose first day as Executive Director of the Randolph County Senior Center was July 1, 1985, will work her final day on April 27, 2012. When Rebecca took over the Senior Center it was a small operation with a staff of seven people. Today it has a staff of about 120, including both full-time and part-time positions.

Under Rebecca's guidance the Senior Center home care program began in 1988 with a nurse and coordinator. Today the program has 140 clients and features two full time nurses and a support staff. In 1989 under Rebecca's guidance, the Senior Center made use of a seven-county regional grant to upgrade the nutrition program for their seniors. The Country Roads Transportation program began in 2006 to transport riders of any age.

Although Rebecca has helped the Senior Center make great strides over the years, she insists that the center and the many people she's gotten to know there over the years have made just as big an impact on her.

Mr. Speaker, as the nation's baby boomers move into their senior years, we certainly need more people like Rebecca Poe and the outstanding level of care to our aging population.

I thank Rebecca for her years of service and Randolph County is fortunate to call Rebecca one of its own.